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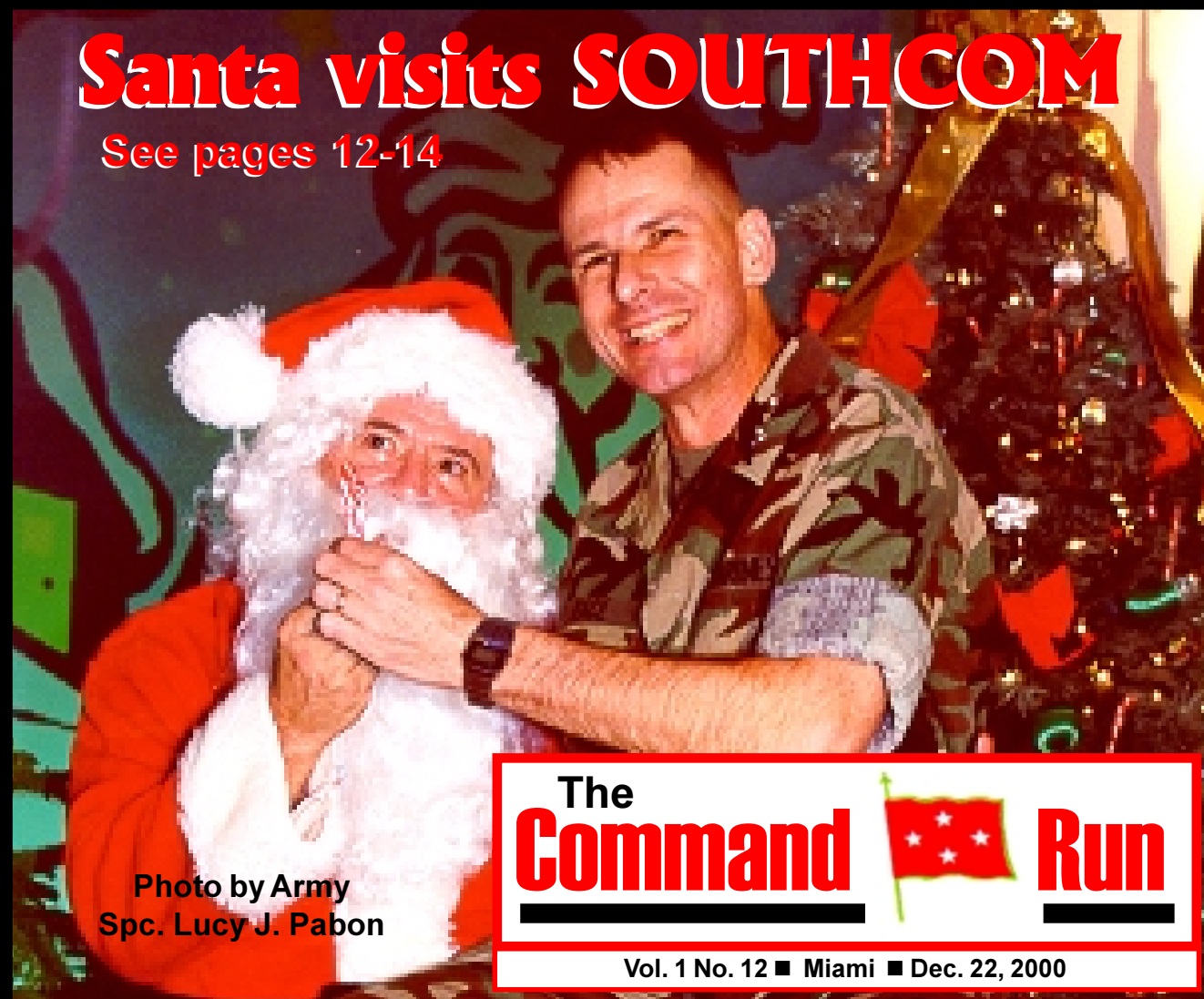


Photo by Army
Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

The
Command  **Run**

Vol. 1 No. 12 ■ Miami ■ Dec. 22, 2000

Your efforts bring peace, prosperity, cooperation to Americas'

By Gen. Peter Pace

U.S. Southern Command Commander in Chief

During this first holiday season of the new millennium, people of all faiths join with family and friends to offer prayers for a new era of peace, prosperity, and security in our often-troubled world. We who are United States citizens give thanks for our nation's prosperity and pray that the blessings of liberty and freedom will

be realized in the 21st century by people the world over.

United States military members deserve special recognition at this time of the year. Often in harm's way and stationed far from home, many will not experience the joys of celebrating this holiday season with their families



"Lynne and I join in wishing you a happy and safe holiday season and joyous New Year."

Gen. Peter Pace
Commander in Chief

and loved ones. Wherever duty calls, however, the pride, commitment, and sacrifices of U.S. military personnel send a message of hope to citizens of all nations that freedom is achievable and worth defending.

I want to express my appreciation to the men and women of United

States Southern Command, both military and civilian, for upholding the highest traditions of service to our nation. Whether at home or abroad this holiday season, may you find comfort in the hope you bring to the people of the Americas for peace, cooperation, and prosperity. Your efforts are the greatest gift we can give our Partner Nations and the finest legacy we can provide our own children.

Lynne and I join in wishing you a happy and safe holiday season and joyous New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Pace".

General, U.S. Marine Corps

'Our thoughts and prayers go out to who serve'

By Gen. Henry H. Shelton
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

As we approach the New Year, we celebrate the spirit of the season and reflect on the blessings we enjoy as Americans. A nation at peace, the freedom to pursue dreams, and the promise of a safe, secure future — these are the blessings built on the sacrifice, dedication and commitment of you — our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and DoD civilians. You remain on duty throughout the holidays, guarding freedom's frontiers with unrelenting vigilance.

During this special season, our thoughts and prayers go out to all who serve — especially those serving far from home, performing difficult, even dangerous missions,



apart from family and loved ones. Each of you is a national treasure, a bright and shining light illuminating the spirit of peace and hope. The difference you make is not measured in the abstract but in the lives you help and protect.

"Each of you is a national treasure, a bright and shining light illuminating the spirit of peace and hope. The difference you make is not measured in the abstract but in the lives you help and protect."

Gen. Henry H. Shelton
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

From my family to yours, Carolyn and I wish each of you a joyous holiday and a Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry H. Shelton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA

Command Run

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Command center stands ready to track Saint Nick

By Lt. Col. William Delehunt, USAF

U.S. Southern Command
chief meteorologist

MIAMI – The U.S. Southern Command stands ready to confirm when Kris Kringle and his team of terrestrial navigators enter the command's area of responsibility Christmas morning. The Joint Operation and Information Center and meteorologists on staff will use an advanced missile tracking satellite

system, dynamic radar and galactic binoculars to monitor the skies for Saint Nick's arrival.

In addition, the SOUTHCOM team will work with other government agencies to assist the jolly man and his reindeer as they travel through windy and sometimes adverse conditions.

Between DoD, the National Weather Service, the Weather Channel

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Santa

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and the National Hurricane Center, Santa has all the weather forecasts necessary to make sure he leaves something for everyone on his “nice” list throughout Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Defense officials said if someone doesn’t get something from Santa, he or she couldn’t blame it on the weather!

With Santa Claus’ annual trip only a few days away, the JOIC is gearing up for their responsibilities in support of this mission. As JOIC chief, Cmdr. Tom Stenstrom is leading the effort.



This early morning photo was taken last Christmas shortly after Santa and his reindeer arrived to the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters in Miami. The command stands ready to assist Saint Nick again this year when he passes through Central and South America, the Caribbean, and on into Miami.

“My people don’t realize this, but because of the rotation of the Earth, Santa begins his journey in the

U.S. Pacific Command’s AOR and works from east to west around the globe. After finishing with his de-

liveries in the U.S. Central Command’s AOR, he moves into the U.S. European Command’s AOR, finishing in West Africa,” Stenstrom said. “He then points Rudolph across the Atlantic, and we pick up responsibility for his flight when he crosses 30 degrees west longitude.”

Maj. Doug Miles, U.S. Southern Air Forces liaison officer, concurred. “We assume operational control of all flights in the AOR, and Santa is no exception. Of course, we take pains to deconflict the route with regularly scheduled flights.”

Lt. Col. Dave Mayer,

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chief of the Joint Reconnaissance Center, added, "We've been very successful over the years. We've never had a single safety incident, and Santa's maintenance crew has a higher fully-mission-capable rate than some of our fixed wing assets."

Officials note, however, that the planning phase for this mission actually started several months ago. "Santa knows the rules for obtaining country clearances for himself and all his elves," said Charlene Brogie, theater clearance manager. "He follows the foreign clearance guide properly, and I get his request every October, just like clockwork."

The weather conditions aren't left to chance, either. Capt. Deann Emery, staff weather officer, makes sure of that. "With the end of hurri-



Santa Claus sits on his sleigh, which was recently refurbished in DoD's most secret workshop.

cane season, we are able to task the weather reconnaissance C-130s from Keesler (Air Force Base, Miss.) to fly out ahead of Santa. They take atmo-

spheric samples, just as they do in tropical storm systems, to optimize the flight route."

No significant storms are predicted for this year's trip, and while Santa will probably have a slight head wind to contend with, "It's nothing Rudy and the boys haven't seen in past years," Emory stressed. She added, "I hope I can do an outstanding job forecasting for Santa this year so he will move me from the 'naughty' list to the 'nice' list."

Not that bad weather would actually stop Santa. According to Col. Kevin Johnson, chief of command and control, Santa is ready for any situation. "Santa has had his sleigh in DoD's most secret workshop for upgrades, and is now flying the SXR-22, the most modern air vehicle in the world," he said.

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Santa

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In addition to NVGs and GPS, this sleigh has a six-CD changer, leather seats, dual airbags, and convertible landing gear. "With skis, wheels and pontoons, Santa is ready to land anywhere in the AOR to deliver the goods. Most importantly, there is a new wind screen for the sleigh, prompted by last year's near disaster after Blitzen ate some bad sushi over Japan," Johnson said.

Mimi Azcarraga agreed and said, "The



Personnel are ready to inform command authorities when Santa Claus enters the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

sleigh has an upgraded IFF transponder, and we'll be able to track the route of flight and post it to the Global Command and Con-

trol System. The JOIC will have instant situational awareness, which is highly unusual," she said.

Capt. Jonnie

Lugo, the JOIC watch officer who will be on duty Christmas Eve has had his team undergoing extensive training for this important mission. "We

alternate watching videotapes of 'Miracle on 34th Street' and 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas' while on duty," Lugo said.

SOUTHCOM officials are standing ready to assist Santa keeping in mind it's going to take a team effort to ensure success. "I have one of the most important jobs," said Col. Bill Bradshaw. "It's my responsibility to put out the milk and cookies for Santa here at the headquarters. Cmdr. Jeff Hesterman added, "And I put out the carrots."

Civilian culminates distinguished 42-year career

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF**

Command Run Editor

MIAMI – The U.S. Southern Command commander in chief recognized, honored and bid farewell Tuesday to a long-time civil service “icon” in the J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate.

Gen. Peter Pace presented the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award to Raymond L. Bennett, a project manager and telecommunications specialist in the command since 1990, for his hard work and many contribu-



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, presents the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award Tuesday to Raymond L. Bennett, J-6, at the headquarters.

tions to the nation during a 42-year distinguished career.

The general publicly acknowledged Bennett's accomplishments during

four years of active duty service in the Air Force, and 38 years of additional service in the Department of Agriculture and Department of Defense, and thanked him specifically for his service to the command.

“We hope when you look back at your 42 years of service to the government that you do reflect on the fact that you enjoyed the work and the people you worked with,” Pace said to Bennett. “Most important,” the general continued, “is that you realize that those of us who you

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Army Col. Benjamin Fletcher (Left), J-6 director, praises Raymond L. Bennett for his contribution to America and to U.S. Southern Command. The colonel told the audience that Bennett, an “icon” at the U.S. Southern Command since 1990, was a rock and inspiration to everyone in the command.

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leave behind have tremendous respect for you as an individual and appreciate all you have done for us.”

Pace then asked Army Col. Benjamin Fletcher, J-6 director, to make a few moments to praise his trusted and knowledgeable associate.

The colonel highlighted Bennett’s impact with the command’s global information grid to make a seamless architecture for the exchange of informa-

tion, and his work on the various standards committees. He also noted the work Bennett accomplished on the Caribbean Regional Communications Network as chief architect of that critical information exchange system.

“It’s an honor for me today to participate in this ceremony and share Ray’s contribution to the United States of America,” Fletcher said. “Ray has been in the organization since 1990, long be-

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fore I arrived. He has been a rock, an inspiration to all of us sitting in this room and to many more throughout the command. He is key to this organization, and there aren't too many people you want to label as indispensable... but as we see his transition, we will find that word may apply."

Pace also recognized the contributions of Bennett's wife Marilyn, noting her longtime support of her husband's career. The general presented her with a command certificate of appreciation and took a moment to summarize her sacrifices on



behalf of the nation.

"No one serves their country for 42 years without being very well supported," the general told Mrs. Bennett. "When Ray was bouncing around saying let's go to Europe, Arizona and Panama, those things just don't happen unless you supported it and supported him. I know for

Gen. Peter Pace also took time to present a command certificate of appreciation to Raymond Bennett's wife Marilyn. The general praised her for the longtime support of her husband's career. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

a fact that when anybody retires and looks back on their time the major reason they feel good about their service to their country is because their spouse made them feel that what they were doing was important. Thank you for supporting him."

Bennett echoed the general in praising his wife

Marilyn. "My lady Mary has been by my side for the last 38 years. In all that I have endeavored to undertake, while she has put her career on hold, her companionship, help and advice has gone far toward my reaching this plateau of my federal civil service professional career. I say thank you and I love you."

In saying farewell, Bennett thanked the general and his coworkers for honoring him.

"I've had a very rewarding and fulfilling professional career," he said. "Thanks for your support, understanding patience and professionalism. Most of all thanks for having made it easy for me to have done my job."



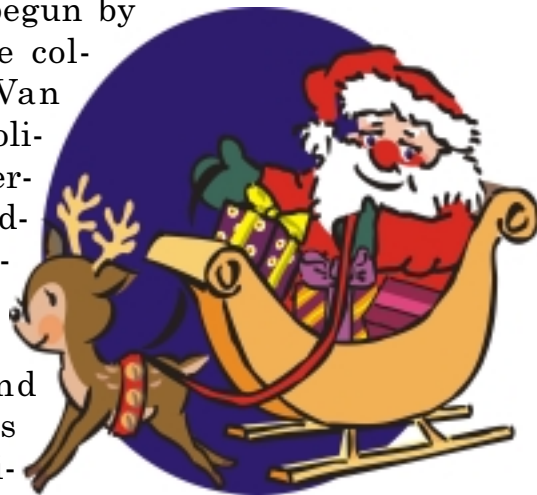
Getting involved

Army Lt. Gen. John P. Abizaid (Center), Joint Staff J-5 director, meets Thursday with Army Maj. Gen. Gary L. Speer (Left), U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief, and Air Force Maj. Gen. James N. Soligan, SOUTHCOM J-5 director, at the headquarters in Miami to learn more about command concerns and issues. Abizaid toured the command headquarters and received a number of briefings. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

DoD mailing addresses for 'Operation Dear Abby' available at web site

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 2000 — "Operation Dear Abby," an effort begun by syndicated advice columnist Abigail Van Buren to bring holiday greetings to service members worldwide, is now underway until Jan. 15. Information about the program and mailing addresses for overseas destinations can be viewed at (<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/abby/>).



Shipping pets: dogs and cats only, and at owner's expense

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 2000 — Rabbits, gerbils, birds, snakes, fish, parrots, otters, horses — these are only some of the family pets people have tried to ship on military chartered aircraft when moving. To their chagrin, none of these prized pets were allowed aboard Air Force Air Mobility Command charters.

"'Pets' means dogs and cats only," AMC's Tech. Sgt. Mitch Conley emphasized. He pointed out that pet shipment is not an entitle-

ment, but a privilege limited to charter passengers in a permanent-change-of-station status. The limit is two pets per family. Waivers are required to transport more than two.

And there's a weight limit — 99 pounds, including the cage or shipping container.

Conley said it costs about \$85 to ship a pet and kennel weighing up to 70 pounds aboard a charter flight, and double that for pets weighing 71 to 99 pounds.

The government does not underwrite or reimburse the cost of shipping pets, he said. Owners pay

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the freight alone, and they also must make their own commercial arrangements if the pet exceeds AMC's 99-pound weight limit.

It's not cheap. "I heard about a guy who paid \$1,300 to ship a 150-pound Great Dane," Conley said.

Pet owners are responsible for the preparation and care of their animals and satisfying all documentation, immunization and border clearance require-



Shipping a pet is not an entitlement.

ments, including quarantines. The shipping container

used must be approved by the International Air Transport Association and be large enough for normal body movements and for the pet to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably.

A small pet can travel in the charter aircraft cabin with special permission from AMC, but it must be in a hard-shell kennel not exceeding 20 inches by 16 by 8.

Conley said service members should advise their transportation office about their pets when make arrangements to ship their belongings. "They need to make arrangements two or three months before they're scheduled to move," he said. "They shouldn't just show up with pets."

He said owners should anticipate difficulty shipping pets during the summer months, when most PCS moves take place. "We do more than 300 waivers a month during that time," he noted. "The majority is requests

for additional space on aircraft. Many people have to ship their pets on commercial flights."

People who need a waiver because of the number, type and weight of their pets can call AMC at **1-800-851-3144** or **DSN 779-7881**, fax a request to **(618) 229-7876** or **DSN 779-7876** or send e-mail to **petwaivers@scott.af.mil**.

A copy of the waiver form can be downloaded in Microsoft Word 95 format at **<http://www.amc.af.mil/do/don/pets.htm>**.

(AFPS)



A new star

Gen. Peter Pace (Left), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, promotes Army Col. Jacoby, deputy director for the J-5 Global/Multilateral Issues and International-American Affairs, to the rank of brigadier general during an end-of-tour award and promotion ceremony Dec. 12. Jacoby's wife Grace assists the general with the promotion. Jacoby, received the Defense Superior Service Medal. (Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon)

Santa accepts CINC's invitation, moves his headquarters south

By Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Gabe Puello
Command Run Assistant
Editor

Miami -- Santa Claus recently accepted an invitation from Gen. Peter Pace, commander in chief, and temporarily moved his headquarters south. The move turned U.S. Southern Command's headquarters into Santa Claus Command Central Dec 4. More than 250 children de-

scended into the building in anticipation of meeting the jolly fat man during the children's holiday party.

"...This Holiday party for dependent spouses and children, is a way to show our appreciation for the immeasurable support they provide to us," said Guy Drab, project officer.

The children were shuttled with military precision through Rudolph's



Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

A SOUTHCOM NCO, attached to Santa's Command Central, photographs a boy on Santa's lap at the command's holiday party Dec. 4.

Reindeer Games taken with Santa the lines in the conference room and provided the children

room, Mrs. Claus' himself. While many of the children waited to be photographed, face painters worked

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with caricatures of Christmas.

The staff at the headquarters building spent tireless hours preparing reindeer sleigh parking signs for the parking lot, color-coded badges with ages for every child, as well decorations for all the rooms.

"I enjoyed every minute of it," exclaimed Navy Cmdr. Kelly Spellman, J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate.

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Photos by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon
(Above) Army Pfc. Tiffany D. Thomas, J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, plays games with children Dec. 4 at the command's children's holiday party. (Left) Army Spc. Amena Islam, J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, helps a child with his arts and crafts project.



Children enjoyed getting their faces painted while waiting to see Santa Claus.

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Spellman played guitar and entertained children with Christmas carols while they visited Mrs. Claus' storyland. She was one of many U.S. Southern Command parents that brought their children to this second annual event sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Law Enforcement Association.



Photos by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

The children craft picture frames for their photos with Santa Clause.



(Above) Cathy Speer, wife of the deputy commander in chief, helps Santa's elves prepare for the children's arrival at the party Dec. 4.

(Right) A young SOUTHCOM girl relaxes and enjoys a piece of candy during the festivities.



Sick children receive holiday cheer, presents

By Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello, USN
Command Run Assistant Editor

Miami -- Over 75 critically ill children were Christmas caroled and given toys donated by the Hearing Research Institute and presented to the children by U.S. Southern Command, the Lions Club of Miami, American Legion, and the Association of United States Army Dec. 17 at Jackson Memorial Children's Hospital.

The carolers were led by Kelly J.

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Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello
Cathy Speer (Far right), wife of the deputy commander in chief, along with Darlene Williams, Susan and Teddi Pickard, give a holiday gift Dec. 17 to a child and his mother at the Miami Memorial Children's Hospital.

Cheer

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Spellman, J-5, and a contingent of Santa's elves that played musical accompaniment. They ambled along the hallways delivering toys to youngsters of different ages, often singing carols from the patient's doorways, unable to enter due to the gravity of their conditions.

"This gift giving to sick kids has been going on for over 11 years. The children get a lift in spirits as well as a tangible toy to hold and play with," said Army National Guard Col. (Dr.) Robert Pickard. The givers also get a lump in their throats from doing some-



U.S. Southern Command, American Legion, Florida Lions Club, and Association of United States Army volunteers distributed toys to youngsters at Jackson Memorial Children's Hospital Dec. 17.

thing worthwhile for a sick child, he added.

This is the second year U.S. Southern Command

has participated in this partnership of giving with the Hearing Research Institute. Leftover toys from

the Christmas Holidays are later given to children during the Easter holiday season.

Zip Code Coffee Groups

The ZIP Code Coffee Groups allow spouses to meet with others living close by to socialize and discuss various topics and issues concerning each other and their families. The groups are divided by geographic areas. For more information about the groups, contact the following group leaders:

Weston

Harriot Johnson (305) 385-2296

Kendall/Hammocks/Dade

Missy Whiddon (305) 971-3131

Doral/North Dade

Linda McClain (305) 406-2203

Pembroke Pines/Weston

Melissa Badami (305) 443-7732

Cooper City

Looking for a group leader; call (305) 437-2723 if interested.

News briefs

Transitioning

There is a Transition Assistance Program Career and Job Workshop Jan. 22-25 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at La Quinta Hotel located at 8730 NW 27th Street in Miami. The four-day career and job search workshop is for separating and retiring service members seeking civilian employment. Topics to be covered include skills and self assessment; veterans benefits; employment networking; job

search strategies; resume writing; and interviewing techniques. A pre-separation counseling session is required prior to the TAPS workshop. Call the Family Support Center at **(305) 437-2671** or toll free at **(888) 547-4025** to schedule an appointment or for more information about the TAP Workshop.

Separating

There is a pre-separation briefing Jan. 8 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Education

Center located at the Codina Building. Call the Family Support Center at (305) 437-2665 for more information or to sign up.

Newcomers

There is a Newcomer's Orientation Jan. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Education Center at the Codina Building. Call **(305) 437-2665** for more information or to sign up for the briefing. This is a prerequisite briefing to attend the TAP Workshop.

BXmart delivers customer satisfaction where \$hoppers need it most

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF**
Command Run Editor

MIAMI – \$hopping can be an extremely expensive and frustrating experience for U.S. Southern Command members, especially with the higher cost of living here. However, if military shoppers use good ¢ents, and don't mind driving a short distance, they will find the relief they are looking for at the Homestead Air Reserve Station BXmart.

Kelli Hackett, BXmart store manager, said her top priority year-round is customer satisfaction, beginning with

where it matters most – a customer's pocket book.

Price cutting

Hackett said the store offers a very wide variety of groceries and merchandise at very competitive prices. "So you can do your grocery shopping and purchase your holiday presents at the same time. You won't find this anywhere else," she said. The store sells items at the very best prices – at cost plus five percent with no tax. In addition, the BXmart also accepts competitor's coupons... "And if you find something cheaper anywhere else, we will match it,"



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Kelli Hackett, Homestead Air Reserve Station store manager, gives instructions to an AAFES vendor.

Hackett added.

Wide variety

From turkeys to candy canes, the BXmart offers a large selection of commissary items. The

store, however, goes the extra mile by offering specific foods that cater to the Asian, German, Cu-

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Kelli Hackett checks the BXmarts fruit stand to ensure freshness.

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ban and Hispanic communities. "You can find items you would find at a specific store in Miami that caters to a particular nationality," Hackett said.

The grocery section also guarantees the finest USDA approved meat products, with its own meat cutters on staff, and boasts a full-fledged deli and bakery. The BXmart also has a self-selection shoe section, clothing

section, and its own jewelry counter.

Big showroom

The houseware section is currently undergoing a renovation that will add 14,000 square feet of floor space when completed in mid to late January 2001. This will allow the BXmart staff to show off more furniture and appliances, garden items, toys and sporting goods. "What is happening now is they are putting in a drop ceiling, new lighting, new

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BXmart

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flooring to expand the retail space,” Hacket explained. “Adding 14,000 additional square feet is a good thing, a win-win situation for the customer. We will be increasing variety and availability, a better shopping experience all the way around.”

Delivery services

The BXmart delivers small appliances and merchandise to people’s homes for a small fee of \$25, up to 25 miles. There is a small additional gas fee for distances beyond this limit. The store is currently negotiating a contract for a



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Rodolfo Alonso, a meat cutter at the Homestead BXmart, grinds up beef, which is USDA approved, and packages it to be sold at the store.

bonded and licensed delivery vendor to provide this service.

The store also delivers

(no delivery fee) BXmart-stocked items and military clothing store items upon request to the

SOUTHCOM Shoppette daily, Monday through Thursday. SOUTHCOM customers need only fill out a customer request form at the shoppette.

Cold storage

Hacket said the majority of the store’s customers are retirees that live within 11 miles of the BXmart. Outside that radius, statistics show SOUTHCOM members are the store’s largest group of customers. Realizing that SOUTHCOM families travel great distances to shop at the BXmart, Hacket said the store gives customers

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BXmart

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that spend more than \$150 a free cooler and bag of ice to transport perishables home.

Toll relief

Every quarter, the BXmart offers a full month of toll relief. According to Hackett, the BXmart will pay for customer's tolls on the turnpike to the BXmart and for the return trip home. The next toll-reimbursement month is scheduled for February 2001.



Litric Riley (Right), a cashier checking identification badges at the BXmart's main entrance, speaks with Kelli Hackett, the store manager, prior to the store's opening Dec. 15. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

Customers need only show their one-way toll receipts at the customer service desk to be paid double that amount. Or shoppers can

show their toll receipts at the check-out register and the amount will be deducted from the total amount. Some shoppers even pre-

fer to save up all the receipts for the month and get them redeemed all at once late in the month, Hackett said. "It's your choice how you want to do it," she said.

Top priority

The store manager said that customer satisfaction is more than a goal at the BXmart – it's the store's top priority. "When customers pass through the cash register and put their merchandise in their cars, I want to make sure they leave with a good lasting impres-

sion," Hackett stressed. "The bottom line is my customers can go shop somewhere else. Only certain people have benefits to shop at this store. So when I lose a customer... I really lose a customer! So you can clearly see that customer satisfaction is the best way to get the store return customers."

(Editor's note: For more information about the Homestead BXmart or to conveniently shop online, visit the Internet at www.aafes.com.)

SOUTHCOM kicks it up at holiday dinner dance



(Above) Kelley J. Spellman, J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, leads the command in singing several classic Christmas carols. She also received a standing ovation for a rousing rendition of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
(Above) A live band entertains U.S. Southern Command members during the Holiday Dinner Dance 2000 at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel Dec. 9. The event gave personnel a chance to socialize with each other and together celebrate the holiday season.
(Right) Marine Gunnery Sgt. Dluhos, Command Group, and his wife "kick it up" on the dance floor to a Salsa favorite.
(See more photos on page 26)





Many people sung Christmas carols with a roving microphone. Some singers sounded better than others, but no one cared.



Several lucky participants played "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," compliments of the J-4 Logistics Directorate.



Air Force Col. Michael Sevier, J-8 Programs and Resources Directorate director, tells the command's somewhat comical version of the classic "Christmas Story."



Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Laye shows how to get a dance groove on.



Army Col. Benjamin Fletcher, J-6 director, was master of ceremonies.



Photos/Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Gen. Peter Pace, commander in chief, addresses attendees and introduces Doris Wilde, wife of Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde. The general announced that she would soon be a U.S. citizen.



Body builder shows off physique, finishes fifth

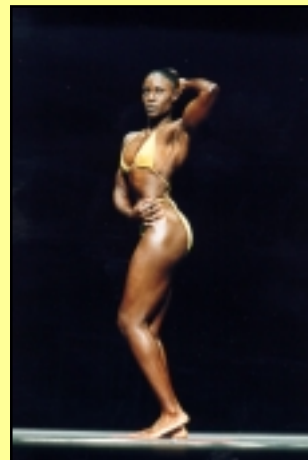
**By Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Gabe Puello**
Command Run Assistant
Editor

MIAMI -- Taking her bodybuilding skills on the road, Petty Officer 2nd Class Sandra Yelverton, J-1 Personnel Directorate, Navy and Marine Corps Personnel Support Desk, recently took 5th place overall at the All Armed Forces Body-

building Championships at Virginia Beach, Va., Sept. 8.

The field consisted of over 100 participants and more than 40 female contestants.

Yelverton was previously featured in the July issue of the Command Run for her first place bodybuilding victory in Naval Station Bahrain's body building competition just prior to her assignment at the



Photos/J.M. Manion

**Petty Officer 2nd
Class Sandra
Yelverton, J-1,
poses enroute to a
5th place finish at
the Armed Forces
Bodybuilding
Championships.**

U.S. Southern
Command.

Spc. Amena Islam

Service:
U.S. Army
Organization:
J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate
Duty title:
Administration NCO
Time in service:
6 years
Hometown:
Miami, Fla.
Hobbies: Reading, sports,

spending time with family, dancing

Favorite duty station: Izmir, Turkey

Career Highlights: I loved Naples, Italy and Izmir, Turkey, and traveling throughout Italy. In Turkey I learned to be a good leader and I had outstanding NCOs.

Scott Getter

Service: U.S. Army
(retired, special forces)
Organization:
J-3 Operations Directorate
Duty title:
Program manager, humanitarian demining
Time in service:
22 years in service; two years civil service
Hometown:

Germantown, Ohio

Hobbies: Fishing, family activities

Favorite duty station: Panama: two short tours, one long tour

Career Highlights: Leading a special forces "A" team into combat during Operation Just Cause. It justified all previous training missions, effort, time and pain. Also working in a humanitarian program at SOUTHCOM is very rewarding.



Get ready... go!

Marine Staff Sgt. Thad J. Fountain (Right), J-3 Force Protection, wears shorts and camoflauge while leading physical training near the head-quarters Wednesday morning. Fountain and Army Staff Sgt. Travis Wilson, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, prepare to run a 100-yard sprint in 48-degree temperatures, which are winterlike conditions in South Florida. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)